

Public Sector S A F E T Y R E P O R T

Public Sector enforcement activity October through December 2003

Total Adjusted Penalty Amount \$40,825.00

- Initial penalty amounts can be reduced 10-45% on the basis of employer size and 15-25% based on good faith effort. During this period initial penalty amounts were reduced a total of 29%.
- In many cases all or a percentage of the penalty are returned to the employer to use to correct the hazards. The amount returned is based on a discussion with the employer after the corrections have been made.

Most cited violations:

- **29CFR1910.303(b)(1)** Electrical Guarding. Electrical equipment must be free from recognized hazards that are likely to cause death or serious physical harm.
- **29CFR1910.305(b)(1)** Unused electrical opening in cabinets, boxes, and fittings must be effectively closed.
- **29CFR1910.151(c)** In the absence of an infirmary, clinic or hospital close to the workplace, someone must be adequately trained to render first aid. Adequate first aid supplies must be readily available.
- **29CFR1910.1450(e)(1)(i)** Where required the employer must develop and implement a Chemical Hygiene Plan and keep exposure levels below permissible exposure levels.
- **29CFR1910.213(c)(i)** Circular hand-fed ripsaw(s) were not guarded by an automatically adjusting hood which completely encloses the portion of the saw above the material being cut.

New Public Sector Poster

Every public sector workplace in Maine must display an occupational safety and health poster where employees can see it. For a free updated poster, go to www.maine.gov/labor/blsmain.htm or call 624-6400. Employers are not required to replace existing posters with this new version.

Laboratory Safety Training

Schools with science laboratories where chemical experiments are conducted must comply with the Laboratory Safety Standard and have a Chemical Hygiene Plan. Public Sector Enforcement Officers have found that many schools are not in compliance. To help schools develop their Chemical Hygiene Plans, the Department of Labor is offering free day-long classes this spring. **Classes are for middle and high school science teachers only.** Participating schools qualify for a 6-month enforcement-free grace period.

Dates and locations of classes:

Presque Isle, March 31

Ellsworth, April 1

Westbrook, April 5

Jay, April 7

Classes are free, but you must register in advance. Call 624-6400 for more information or to register.

New SafetyWorks! website

The Maine Department of Labor's **SafetyWorks!** program has a new website: www.safetyworksmaine.org. The easy-to-use website has information and resources to help create safe and healthy workplaces, including free classes, on-site consultation, air and noise monitoring, training materials, and regulations.

Regulations and compliance assistance for Maine public sector workplaces can be found on the internet at <http://www.Maine.gov/labor/bls/newpsw.htm>

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Return Service Requested

MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
Public Sector Enforcement

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The Public Sector Safety Report is issued quarterly to inform public sector employers and employees of safety and health enforcement issues. Published by the Maine Department of Labor, the compliance and enforcement agency for occupational safety and health regulations for public sector workplaces in Maine.

Please post this Report to share the information with employees.

To be added to the mailing list, or to make address corrections, send information to *Public Sector Safety Report*, MDOL, 45 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0045, fax to (207) 624-6449 or e-mail at webmaster.blis@Maine.gov TTY (207) 624-6003.